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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Gala, et al.

Int'l Appl. No.

PCT/EP2005/002927

Int'l filing date

March 18, 2005

For

ASSAY FOR DETECTING AND

IDENTIFYING MICRO-

ORGANISMS

Examiner

unknown

Group Art Unit

unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND VERIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.821 (f)

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S. application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.